



NORTHFIELD-RICE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Winter 1982 Volume Four

MEETING DATES

January 20	Business Meeting Place: Rice County Historical Museum
February 17	"A Scandinavian Night" Place: Northfield Historical Society Building
March 17	"The Civil War Veteran" Bring records and photographs Place: Rice County Historical Museum
April 21	Cemetery Workshop and Business Meeting Place: Northfield Historical Society Building
May 19	To be announced

IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS INTERESTED IN FAMILY HISTORY, BRING THEM TO OUR MEETINGS. GUESTS ARE MOST WELCOME.

President...Alice Moriarity
Secretary...
Treasurer...Carolyn Wille
Co-Editors...Luana Deney Bauer
Carolyn Wille

Meetings are held Third Thursday
September thru May at 7:30pm.
Dues are \$7.00 per individual a
and families are \$9.00 per year.

ATTENTION, RICE COUNTY RESEARCHERS

The Division of Archives and Manuscripts, Minnesota Historical Society, 1500 Mississippi Street. St. Paul, Mn 55101 has the following holdings for Rice County, Mn.

Rice County Assessment Rolls and Tax Lists 1855-1860

Assessment Rolls to 1961

Auditors tax lists 1860-1961

Auditors journals and ledgers 1856- ?

Auditors, some school records (does not appear to lists names here)

Auditors tax sale records 1856-1914

Other Auditor records.

County Attorney Records:

Register of criminal actions 1885-1935

Poor Farm records 1909-1955

Rice County Register of Deeds 1856-1870

Chattel Mortgage index

Grantee-Grantor Register 1864-1866

Some Treasurers books, journals, ledgers and registers.

District Court Records:

Business name index (date??)

Coroners records 1889-1933

Coroners inquest records 1933-1965

Court Minutes 1858-1930

Court orders and findings 1885-1933

Criminal information record 1924-1934

Index to criminal cases, no date

Indictment records 1881-1935

Judgement book and account of clerking 1856-1859

Judgement Books 1933-1976

" Dockets 1858-1920, 1877-1937

" Records 1858-1933

" Roll 1931-1968

Marriage Record 1865-1866

TO BE CONTINUED

Dear Members

In 1983 the Rice County Fair will honor Swedish families of Rice County. For those who are interested in preparing a display or family charts we are having a Scandinavian night. Please bring your Scandinavian research books in February.

On March 12, Saturday, at 2:00pm the Rice County Historical Society is presenting a program entitled "The Volunteer in the Civil War" at the Museum. We felt we should follow this program with a meeting on researching the Civil War veteran. Military records, books, photos etc. should be brought to this meeting. See you there.

We are proud to announce a French-Canadian Workshop to be held in conjunction with Faribault Heritage Days on June 18. This workshop will be conducted by members of The North-West Territories, French and Canadian Heritage Institute from 9-4 in the Auditorium of Buckham Memorial Library in Faribault. The hours are not definite and more details will be in the next newsletter...LMB

THE PROBLEM OF FINDING THE CORRECT NAME

What would genealogy be without names? Not much, I'm afraid. So in our search for ancestors it is important to keep in mind that over the years names are prone to change--sometimes just a little in spelling, other times so much that the new name bears little or no resemblance to the original.

I'm sure we've all heard "But that's not part of my family, it's not spelled right." One of the first rules of genealogy says that if a name is pronounced the same as yours you must consider it to be the same name until proven otherwise. For example the name MEESE in Rice County was often recorded as MASE, MASEY, MAZEY, and MAZY because the original German pronunciation rhymed with "daisy". Remember to search for original pronunciation and spellings.

Sometimes there were two or more people with identical names in a community, and they handled their problem of identity in different ways. One Jacob Bosshardt changed his name to Bosshart. One Johann Lorenz Stegner was Sr. and the other Jr. though they were brothers-in-law, not father and son. One family of Ryans became known as Ryan on the hill, and later as just Hill! Two men named John Wolf came to East Prairie (near Nerstrand) in the early days. They were not related and often records did not include their differing middle initials. To complicate matters, their wives were both Catherine! There is very little to differentiate such people in the records.

Sometimes we are frustrated by researchers who can find no record of an ancestor we know definitely was in a certain area. Remember that early records were all handwritten, and

some script was more legible than others. Then the records were probably indexed later by someone else. I have found Zachar(y) indexed as Lachar at National Archives, Lechelt as Sechelt in Goodhue County records, and Rohlwing as Bohlwing in Rice County, so use your imagination if you just cannot find an entry where it should be. Also remember that Johann may become John, Engel-Angeline, Ursula--Julia, etc. Instruct your researcher to look for variations.

We find other problems when an entire name is changed, not just a spelling. My father grew up married and died as Edmund C., but his birth record shows only the name Cornelius. His cousin went through life as Clemens only to find when he went on Social Security that his birth was recorded as Philip Albert. My father-in-law could not identify an Ernestine on a school enrollment list. She was his little sister whom we all knew by a different name. Germans especially seemed to favor several given names each and were not at all consistent in which they used.

There are two other important surname changes to watch for. First is the Norwegian tendency to waffle between the patronymic and the "gaardnavne" for a while before settling on one or the other, and the second is the adoption by a stepfather or other relative with or without legal formalities. You may find a "Book of Name Changes" at your county courthouse which records some of these changes.

On a few changes someone who left the Old Country wanted to leave everything behind, even his name. If this is your problem, good luck--you'll need it!....Carolyn Wille

Our 1982 Christmas Party

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members who contributed the delicious treats for our Christmas party. To Hazel for her Liebkuchen, to Randine for her Krum Kake, Harriet for her French bread and cheese tray, Betty Jane and Arthur for their Friendship Bread and to Elaine for her "hot" Tortierre. Betty Cloutier brought a Belgian Cookie Press for display and Belgian cookies and their recipe for all to share. We also had Sandbachelts but I was so busy eating them I never found out who brought them...LMB

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